

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

ORM-02 /060 W

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R 270930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0502

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT: ARREST OF TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW ASSISTANT EDITOR

HUANG HUA

1. JULY 27 LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT HUANG HUA (7806/5478), ASSISTANT EDITOR OF TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW (TPR), WAS ARRESTED JULY 26 ON THE CHARGE OF SEDITION. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ROC SECURITY OFFICIALS ARRESTED HUANG AFTER VERIFYING REPORTS FROM UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS THAT HUANG WAS ENGAGING IN SEDITIONARY ACTIVITIES.

2. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT HUANG, A 37-YEAR-OLD TAIWANESE FROM KEELUNG, HAS RUN AFOUL OF THE ROC SECURITY APPARATUS. IN THE MID-SIXTIES HUANG SPENT TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS IN A POLITICAL REFORM CAMP FOR ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE AN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY ALTHOUGH HE WAS NEVER TRIED FOR THIS OFFENSE. HE WAS RELEASED IN 1966. IN 1967 HE WAS ARRESTED AGAIN ON THE CHARGE OF SUBVERTING THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH VIOLENCE AND SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT. HE WAS RELEASED LAST YEAR UNDER THE 1975 COMMUTATION ACT AND PROMPTLY BEGAN WRITING FOR TPR.

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3. SINCE THE SUSPENSION OF TPR IN DECEMBER 1975, HUANG,

TOGETHER WITH TPR EDITOR CHANG CHUN-HUNG (1728/0193/1347), HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN RUNNING A NOODLE STAND WHICH HAS BECOME A POPULAR GATHERING SPOT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG INDEPENDENTS. IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, HUANG WAS DETAINED BRIEFLY ON THE CHARGE OF ACTING AS A PROCURER OF CALL GIRLS WHO LIVE IN HIS APARTMENT BUILDING, BUT THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED.

4. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT YET KNOW WHAT LIES BEHIND HUANG'S MOST RECENT ARREST BUT WILL BE ALERT TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

5. COMMENT: HUANG'S ARREST IS THE LATEST OF SEVERAL ARRESTS AND OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GROG AGAINST INDEPENDENTS DURING THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS AND MAY SUGGEST A HEIGHTENED EFFORT BY THE GROG TO CLAMP DOWN ON DISSIDENTS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE GROG'S ACTIONS HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY A MORE ACTIVE POSTURE BY DISSIDENTS IN RECENT MONTHS AND REPRESENT NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO VIS-A-VIS DISSIDENT ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION. THE GROG HAS STILL NOT AIRMED ITS CASE AGAINST YANG CHIN-HAI (2799/6855/3189) AND YEN MING-SHENG (7346/2494/5110), TWO DOWN-ISLAND DISSIDENTS ARRESTED IN LATE MAY, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HUANG'S ARREST ARE ALSO NOT CLEAR. UNLESS OR UNTIL THE FACTS OF THESE CASES SURFACE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE WHETHER IT IS THE GROG OR THE DISSIDENTS WHO ARE BECOMING MORE ACTIVE.

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